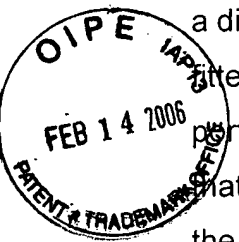




### Abstract of the Disclosure



A collar to which a needle protection housing is attached has a proximal end and a distal end. The proximal end of the collar has a number of internal protrusions that are fitted within the space defined by the two sets of flanges extending from the proximal portion of a needle hub. The distal end of the collar has a number of fingers or retainers that are used to grasp and removably couple a needle sheath. The needle sheath covers the needle that extends from the distal end of the needle hub before use. A needle protection housing is pivotally connected to the collar, and is pivoted to cover the needle after use. A channel or opening in the protective housing through which the needle passes is formed by a pair of progressively angled lips that extend longitudinally along the length of the housing.